

SAFETY FIRST! Tomorrow is All Fools' day. Be careful, beware, watch your step!

HOME EDITION

# The Topeka State Journal

TOPEKA, KANSAS, FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 1916—FOURTEEN PAGES

THIS EDITION 2 CENTS

## KILL 30 BANDITS IN FIRST BATTLE

U. S. Troops Rout 500 Villistas at San Geronimo.

Villa Shot in Leg; Escaped and Is in Hiding.

SEVERAL TROOPERS WOUNDED

Believe Villa Has More Men Than Colonel Dodd.

No Anxiety as to Outcome Felt at Headquarters.

TROOPS REACH SANTA MARIA

Field Bakery at Dublin Relieves Supplies Problem.

Use Native Mexican Flour and Crude Adobe Oven.

El Paso, March 31.—The American expeditionary forces into Mexico in search of Francisco Villa have fought and won their first battle and the first blood lost by American troops has been spilled at San Geronimo in the Guerrero district, according to official Mexican reports received here today.

The Villa loss was placed at thirty killed, and the Americans at four wounded. Among the Villa wounded was an officer named Lopez, who General Pershing thought might be Pablo Lopez, who led the band that murdered seventeen Americans at Santa Isabel, and who afterwards was erroneously reported killed in the fight at Columbus.

Gen. Eliseo Fernandez was among the Villa dead.

El Paso.—Mexican Consul Garcia announced today that he had been informed by General Gavira, Carranza commander at Juarez that the latter had received word that the American troops had been engaged in battle with Villa's forces.

According to General Gavira's information, which was supplied in a telegram from Lieut. Col. Refugio Davila at Casas Grandes, the fight took place on March 30 at San Geronimo between the Seventh cavalry and 500 Villa forces, the latter losing their commander, Eladio Fernandez, and thirty men, and the Americans suffering several wounded.

Colonel Davila also wired General Gavira, according to Consul Garcia, that confirmation had been received that Villa had been wounded in the leg in the last fight with the Carranza forces and now is hiding in the north of Guerrero.

San Antonio, March 31.—General Funston today awaited news that fighting between American troops and a Villa force had begun along the Northwestern railway between Madera and Chihuahua. Information that he studied unofficial reached headquarters today that a considerable force of Villa's men had concentrated in that region and that the American cavalry was moving forward in strength. Carranza's troops also were reported preparing to resist Villa's men who were said to be assuming the offensive.

San Antonio, March 31.—Villa's force, estimated at five hundred, was severely defeated at Guerrero on March 29 by Colonel Dodd, according to a report from General Pershing to General Funston, sent from the San Geronimo ranch.

None of the American wounded was seriously injured. Villa was not present at the fight.

General Pershing said that

what was regarded as confirmation of the report that he was suffering from a broken leg had been received. His exact whereabouts had not been learned.

Colonel Dodd led his Seventh and Tenth cavalry in a smashing ride from the north toward Guerrero when he learned of the presence there of the Villa force, covering the 55 miles intervening in seventeen hours. General Pershing said he arrived there at 6 o'clock, going into action immediately, but whether it was 6 o'clock in the morning or afternoon the report did not indicate.

**Capture Machine Guns.**  
It was a complete surprise to the Villa force, which had entered into celebration of its victory over the garrison the day before.

Soon after the action began the Mexicans were breaking for cover and beginning to disappear along the trails that lead to the mountains northeast of the railway. For ten miles the running fight began and Guerrero was continued and abandoned only when the division of the retreating force into numerous small bodies made pursuit impossible.

Colonel Dodd reported that he had captured two machine guns and a considerable number of saddles and rifles. The fleeing bandits left behind several Carranza soldiers, who said they had been held by Villa for execution. They were released.

**May Make New Stand.**  
General Pershing said that it was not improbable that Villa would endeavor to reassemble his forces some where along the head waters of the Santa Maria river.

He is moving his forces in such manner as to prevent if possible new concentration of up to 10,000 men, any force that does make a stand.

He regarded as probable the elimination from active development of Villa for some time on account of his injured leg.

The fighting lasted five hours and although General Pershing's report with it to state whether it began in the morning or late in the afternoon, staff officers in General Funston's headquarters assumed that it was an early morning attack.

General Pershing reported that a part of Villa's losses was that of a number of horses. He expressed the opinion that the blow Colonel Dodd had inflicted was serious and would go far towards finishing the work of the military expedition.

Washington, March 31.—The war department this afternoon received from the Mexican government the report that the Villa force had been badly beaten in a clash with United States troops. Four Americans were wounded, but none seriously.

In a fight with Villa's troops thirty Mexicans were killed, General Pershing reported. Four American privates were injured, but none seriously. Two machine guns, many cavalry horses and much ammunition were captured by the Americans.

**Villa's Leg Broken.**  
The fight occurred about 6 p. m. March 29, near Guerrero and the report came from the San Geronimo ranch. Villa was not present during the encounter and is reported to be suffering from a broken leg and a lame hip.

The exact position of none of the three organizations was given out but Villa's outpost farthest from the American lines was said to have been about fifty miles of Chihuahua yesterday.

Villa has been concentrating his forces in that part of Chihuahua within the last few days and the force he has gathered along the railway north from Minaca, where he was reported to have visited his wrath on some of the residents is believed to be greater than any he has commanded since he began his flight from the border almost a year ago.

Although not definitely known, the information that reached General Funston indicated Villa's men and the de facto government troops already were in contact.

**Dodd's Cavalry on Trail.**  
Colonel Dodd, with the Seventh and Tenth cavalry has been moving steadily south and west since the division.

(Continued on Page 2.)

**POULTRY FAKERS!**  
Crop Stuffing Costs New Yorkers 7 Million a Year.

Pay 25 Cents Pound for Sand, Gravel and Paste.

New York, March 31.—An order forbidding the sale of live poultry with food in the crop at the time of sale will be put into effect Monday in New York city. The order was issued by John J. Dillon, state commissioner of food and markets who says that several million consumers in health and purse from the widespread practice of stuffing the crops of birds to increase the weight.

New Yorkers are paying \$7,000,000 a year for a million of sand, gravel, meal paste and water, he said, "and the chickens whose crops have been stuffed become diseased as a result and will die in three or four days if not killed."

**Pay \$45,000,000 a Year.**  
There are 7,000 carloads of live poultry shipped to New York from western states annually, with approximately 5,000 fowls to the car totaling about 140,000,000 pounds of poultry. This poultry retails for approximately 25 cents a pound, making the cost to the consumer \$35,000,000.

"While we are not ready to reach the guilty shippers," added Mr. Dillon, "we can reach them through the dealers in New York city. They are forced to decline to purchase poultry which may be confiscated after it gets here."

**Big Snow in S. Dakota Blocks R. R.**  
Deadwood, S. D., March 31.—Three feet of snow has fallen in the Black Hills in the past thirty-six hours. Railroad traffic is seriously crippled.

## "ONLY 1 BOTTLE OF BEER AND I DRANK THAT," MAN SAYS

Farmer Gives Evidence in Divorce Case Today.

Tells of Party Held on His Farm Near Topeka.

FIGHT IN COURT OVER BOY

Norman J. Prescott and Wife Would Have Child Custody.

Witnesses Tell of Auto Rides With Other Than Husband.

All day today ten-year-old George Prescott, bright and handsome, has sat on a bench in the corridor outside of Judge A. W. Davis' court room, while judge, lawyers and witnesses have been determining whether he shall be a half orphan, and if so whether he shall spend the rest of his youthful years with his father or mother.

The case on trial is the divorce action brought by Lida Prescott against her husband, Norman J. Prescott. The case was filed last August following medical treatment for Mrs. Prescott which she maintained was more necessary when her husband threw her down a flight of stairs. While the husband filed an answer in the case his answer is not in the nature of a cross-petition. The hearing today has assumed the nature of a fight over the ten-year-old boy.

The defense has attempted to show that Mrs. Prescott is not a proper woman to have the custody of her own child. Efforts have been made through witnesses to show that Mrs. Prescott took frequent automobile rides with men other than her husband. The prosecution is attempting to show that Mrs. Prescott is justified in seeking a divorce and that she is competent and qualified morally to care for the boy.

Fifteen or more witnesses have been subpoenaed and the indications are that the case will be a long one. Considerable time in the first division of the district court. Neighbors and friends of the family filled the court room.

**Party of Four.**  
Charles Reed, a farmer living south-west of town, caused a ripple of interest when he testified that he had been with Mrs. Prescott on a party of four.

(Continued on Page Four.)

**ARMY TO 180,000**

Senate Considers Amendment to Army Bill Today.

U. S. Has 234,482 With Military Training Not Enlisted.

Washington, March 31.—Consideration of the army increase bill was continued in the senate today. A number of amendments were being considered but no committee report was expected. One of those proposed by Chairman Chamberlain of the military committee would restrict the enlisted strength of the regular army to 180,000.

Approximately 234,482 citizens of military age in the United States now outside the army have had military training. This number was estimated by the war department to be in response to a resolution.

Adjutant General McCain reported 57,265 men present in the army after three years' service between 1906 and 1914. Of these, 5,893 were deserters or others who left without honorable discharge. There are 126,469 men who served and passed through the organized militia during that period and 40,317 who graduated from the National Academy of Artillery.

Where they received instructions satisfactory to the war department.

**A BIG BUSINESS THIS**

Developed Here in Topeka in Publishing Lines.

The current issue of the Missouri Valley Farmer and the Household, two of Governor Cappers' publications, show a wonderful business that has been developed in Topeka. The circulation of the Missouri Valley Farmer is given at half a million copies and the price charged for display advertising is twenty-eight dollars per inch. The circulation of the Household is stated to be over three-quarters of a million copies and the amount charged for advertising is forty-two dollars per inch.

The Missouri Valley Farmer in its current issue carries \$1,000 worth of advertising and the Household for April carried \$15,400.00 worth of advertising. When it is recalled that Mr. Capper has built up this enterprise by his own efforts and efficient organization it illustrates in a measure what the city of Topeka has done in the publishing line.

**BASEBALL CAMPAIGN**

President of Western League Will Speak in Topeka Next Week.

Frank Zehrung of Lincoln, president of the Western league, will speak at the Commercial club Tuesday noon. In the evening a big meeting of ball fans will be held at the club rooms and President Zehrung will speak.

At the evening meeting plans will be decided upon for a season ticket campaign by the baseball booster club. J. Will Kelley, secretary of the club, made this announcement today.

## Address Meet Thousand Miles From Speakers

Jackson, Mich., March 31.—Governor Hiram Johnson of California and Senator Charles E. Townsend of Michigan will deliver the principal addresses here tonight at the annual banquet of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, although neither of the speakers will be within hundreds of miles of this city. Their addresses will be transmitted by long distance telephone, Johnson from Jackson and Townsend from Washington.

**DOUBLE TRAGEDY**

Prominent Kansan Slays Wife and Self With Razor.

Quarreled, Probably Over Much Property They Owned.

Lyons, Kan., March 31.—At 10 o'clock this morning, Theodore Moore an old resident of Rice county now living in Lyons, killed his wife by almost severing her head from her body with a razor and then cut his own throat with the same razor, dying soon after.

They had much property and neighbors said they had quarreled some of late. No reason is known for their quarrel or for the deed, but the supposition is the trouble was over the property titles.

**TEST R. R. PLAN**

Funston Instructed to Try Out Supply Shipping.

U. S. Soldiers in Mexico Get 20 Per Cent Extra Wages.

Washington, March 31.—General Funston had instructions to make the first test today of General Carranza's plan for the commercial use of the Mexico Northwestern railroad for shipping supplies to the American troops pursuing Villa. By tendering his first consignment to the railroad Funston will begin the fair trial that is to be given the de facto government's consignment plan.

To the expense of the expedition entailed by the purchase of eight biplanes and two thousand cavalry horses, the United States is paying for foreign service to the troops actually in Mexico. It was the first day pay for the American forces since they crossed the border.

Foreign service calls for 20 per cent additional for enlisted men and ten per cent for officers. The quartermaster general's office it was estimated the additional pay would amount to \$46,700 monthly.

**SHE ALSO PILKED**

Missouri Co-Ed Declares She Is Victim of Charity Work.

Testifies on Trial for Getting Society Women's Money.

Chicago, March 31.—The case of Miss Mabel Stuart, former University of Michigan student, charged with the government with using the mails for fraudulent purposes, was placed in the hands of the jury at noon today.

Chicago, March 31.—Arguments of attorneys in the case of Miss Mabel Stuart, charged with using the mails in a scheme to defraud will be heard today. The taking of testimony was postponed until after the lunch hour.

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**WARM AND BRIGHT**

No More Shippers' Forecasts Will Be Issued This Season.

April will be ushered in with clear weather and moderate temperatures following the slightly non-like closing of March. The outlook is bright and warm. The total rainfall Thursday was .28 of an inch. No precipitation occurred last night, although the appearance of the sky was threatening. The wind is still in the northwest.

The forecast calls for partly cloudy weather tonight; Saturday fair and warmer. The shippers' forecast, the last one of the season, will be issued today for the 36-hour shipping elements west, above freezing in all other directions. The leading at Topeka tonight will be for a clearing and a bright day with a breeze from the northwest.

Temperatures today averaged one degree above normal. Following are hourly readings for the day furnished by the weather bureau:

7 o'clock	44	11 o'clock	46
8 o'clock	44	12 o'clock	46
9 o'clock	44	1 o'clock	46
10 o'clock	44	2 o'clock	46

## FIRST PHOTO NEW YORK CENTRAL WRECK



Thirty persons were killed and scores were injured in the Lake Shore train wreck at Amherst, Ohio, early Wednesday morning. These pictures, showing the effects of the disaster, were taken Wednesday afternoon, before any of the debris had been cleared away.

The wreck was one of those rarest of railroad calamities—not one collision, but two, involving three trains, on two tracks. When the half dozen investigations now under way are concluded, the blame will be fixed on some luckless railroad employee. A block signal, set suddenly and without warning, against a train speeding along eastward with another train following in the next "block" lies at the bottom of the doubt that exists as to the real cause of the wreck.

**WIDOW GETS JOB AND LOSES \$3,125 ON THE SAME DAY**

Chicago, Ill., March 31.—While Mrs. Fred A. Busse, widow of a former mayor of Chicago, was earning the first day's salary as a clerk in the city collector's office Wednesday, thieves entered her flat and stole jewelry valued at \$3,000 and \$135 in cash. It was learned today, Mrs. Busse was recently appointed to the position in the city hall as she was said by friends to have no means of support.

**BANDITS SLAY 3**

Villa Said To Be in Raid Near Minnaca, Chihuahua.

172 Reported Massacred in Same Locality Last Night.

El Paso, March 31.—A man named Herman Blankenburg and two others were murdered yesterday at Minnaca, Chihuahua, by Francisco Villa and his followers according to private but authentic sources here. Details of the killing are lacking.

Minnaca is situated on the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient railroad, which joins with the Mexico Northwestern at La Junta, and is about ten miles southeast of Guerrero, where Villa is reported to have massacred 172 Carranza supporters. Today this information substantiates, therefore, previous statements of the bandit's whereabouts and indicates there is truth in the reports that he has turned eastward and may come in contact with American cavalry along the Mexican Northwestern.

**Information Considered Authentic.**  
Although Blankenburg's name indicates he is of German descent, the nearest information available here is that he is an American citizen. It is believed the other victims of Villa's wrath also were Americans, as the bandit's vengeance hardly would be turned against persons of any other nationality. The information regarding the reported assassination was telephoned from Minnaca to Chihuahua last night over a private line by an employee of an American concern, as telegraphed from Chihuahua to El Paso.

The names of other Americans known to have been in or near Minnaca at the time of the killing were Dr. J. E. de Camp, Hemple Locke and a Dr. Stell.

**Oddities Culled From Day's News**

Berkeley, Cal.—Do you know the meaning of "eleostomus"? Do you "savvy" "kinesthetic," "chamfer," "heionism" and "cosmogony"? Do you know the difference between "ageratum" and "hemiptera"? No? Well, then you're ignorant. A test devised by Dr. J. E. de Camp, University of California psychologist, says you are.

Copenhagen.—Henrik Bergesen, the widely known Norwegian merchant, who has spent twenty years in Germany, declares that in that country there is now stored \$1,250,000,000 worth of cheap merchandise, mostly produced by women, ready to be sold to the world, immediately peace is declared.

London.—"In view of the situation in Portugal," ex-King Manuel, who is now living in a suburb of London, has issued a proclamation, asking all his followers in Portugal as well as royalists abroad, to support "whatever form of government may be established in Portugal."

Philadelphia.—When J. J. McNally today announced the addition of a new baby to his household, his friends told him they were glad there was a new baby at his house. McNally builds a new house for every new baby McNally. Asked today if business was good, McNally replied: "I expect to build more babies." He already has 10.

St. Louis.—May Messenbaum, a widow, yesterday shot and killed Sam Remick as he started to leave a room in the rear of her store. She said she killed him because he had refused to marry her.

**Weather Forecast for Kansas.**  
Partly cloudy tonight; Saturday fair and warmer.

## STOWAWAY WHO CAPTURED SHIP SAYS HE IS SPY

Declares German Gov't Sent Him to Blow Up Vessel.

Expected Reward of 2,000 Pounds in Ship's Strongbox.

SAFE HELD BUT TEN POUNDS

Crew of 56 Obeyed Under Threat to Touch Off Bombs.

Captain and Culprit Give Versions of Pirate Stunt.

Lewes, Del., March 31.—Ernst Schiller, the young German who captured the British steamer Matoppe and terrorized the crew of 54 men on Wednesday night shortly after the ship had sailed out of New York harbor for Vladivostok with railroad supplies for Russia declared today that he was a spy for the German government. Weary from the excitement he had undergone he threw himself upon a cot in the Lewes jail early today and sought sleep. Previously he had emphatically denied that he was a German spy, declaring his object was to seize the ship's treasure.

"Yes, I am a spy for the German government," he said. "You can believe it or not—it makes no difference to me. I got my instructions from the German government to go aboard the ship and blow her up and to prevent her cargo from reaching Russia. I could have blown her up but the captain's plea for his wife and daughter was too much for me and I had not the heart to do it. I am ready to take the consequences, but I ask that they keep me ashore instead of sending me back to the ship for the captain to take me in charge."

**Who Has Jurisdiction.**  
Schiller had been told that as his daring exploit occurred outside the three-mile limit he would in all likelihood be taken to British possessions in the West Indies for trial for piracy. Federal authorities and representatives of the German government came today to examine Schiller and decide what to do with him. If the United States takes jurisdiction under international maritime law, he will be turned over to the representatives of Great Britain. An examination in a formal naval officer's condition will be made. Those who have talked with him believe he is irrefragably true to his story of his career is not true.

Schiller was reluctant to tell his history. "I was born in Germany," he said. "Never mind the town of my parents' name. I have been in this country one year, in New York three weeks. I was sent by the German government to England soon after the war started and at Germany's request, I enlisted in the British navy and was assigned to the training ship Conway at Liverpool."

**Many Spies in British Navy.**  
"I want to say right now that there are several thousand German spies in the British navy, I know what this means to me. It's the Tower of London if the Germans get back to the Matoppe. But I won't go, just because that in mid-October, I was in the Matoppe with the captain Richard Bergner of the Matoppe said he is convinced that Schiller is a former naval officer."

Talking of his experiences he said: "I spent three weeks in Hoboken preparing for this. I was learning the docks buying drinks for sailors and learning from them what ships were sailing with contraband."

"I lay in the lifeboat on upper deck, waiting for the ship to sail on Thursday night. For two days I did not eat. I had only brought some sandwiches with me but I stuck it out."

**Acts Fool Now, But—**  
Although Dr. W. R. Messick, who examined Schiller, declared he believed the man was sane, he also declared that the man is mentally irresponsible. Captain Bergner says he is "far from being sane" and that he is "a fool now."

"This fellow may act the fool now," Bergner said, "but he is far from being simple minded, as you will see by what happened. We left New York Wednesday evening and had passed the Sandy Hook at 8 o'clock when I was in my cabin. We were bound for Vladivostok with railroad material for the Russian government and had a crew of 56 men, of which only 14 were sailors."

(Continued on Page 2.)

**State Journal's City Circulation.**  
The Topeka Capital in October last, stated that there were 9,938 homes within Topeka. Assuming that this is correct, here are some significant State Journal figures.

For last week, not taking into consideration the papers printed on Saturday, which was an unusual number on account of the Willard-Moran prize fight, the State Journal's average daily circulation was 16,551. This included the papers delivered in Oakland, Belvue, Highland Park, Seabrook and the immediate suburbs of Topeka.

**UP GOES WAR PRICE OF SHAVES AND HAIRCUTS**

London, March 31.—The Hair Dressers' union has announced that after April 15 next, they will raise the charge for shaving from four cents to five cents and add one cent to the price of hair-cutting from eight cents to ten cents. Scarcity of labor and the increased cost of materials are given as the reason for the increased prices.